

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02

PRS-01 /120 W

-----060415Z 014426 /20

R 051037Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 488

AMCONSUL GOTEBORG UNN

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1914

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TECH, SW

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS CRITICISM OF U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY BY SWEDISH
OFFICIALS

REF: STOCKHOLM 1894

1. IAEA MEETING CONTINUES TO RECEIVE EXTENSIVE PUBLIC ATTENTION IN SWEDEN. THE STOCKHOLM PRESS, ON MAY 4, REPORTED THAT GUNNAR SODER, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE SWEDISH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND HEAD OF THE 65-MAN SWEDISH DELEGATION TO THE NUCLEAR POWER CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG, IS CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTEMPT TO HALT THE REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL FROM NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. SECRETARY SODER CLAIMED THAT A TERMINATION OF SUCH RPROCESSING WOULD NOT REDUCE THE DANGER OF A PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE WORLD. HE ADDED THAT ALL COUNTRIES THAT HAVE CONVENTIONAL NUCLEAR REACTORS AND FISSONABLE MATERIALS POSSESS THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY OF PRODUCING AN ATOM BOMB, EVEN THOUGH THE BOMB MAY BE A PRIMITIVE ONE. THEREFORE, THE AMERICAN MOVE, AS PRESENTED BY U.S. DELEGATE JOSEPH NYE, SERVES NO USEFUL PURPOSE, SAID SODER.

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2. GUNNAR SODER TOOK A FIRM STAND IN FAVOR OF REPROCESSING OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SWEDEN, IN THE EXISTING SITUATION, SUPPORTS THE EUROPEAN VIEW THAT A REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR WASTE MATERIALS IS THE MOST EXPEDIENT SOLUTION, "BUT WE LEAN TOWARD THE U.S. POLICY FAVORING A CESSATION OF THE USE OF BREEDER REACTORS." SECRETARY SODER STRESSED THAT SWEDEN

WOULD PERSIST IN ITS DEMANDS THAT SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL FROM SWEDISH REACTORS BE REPROCESSED ABROAD.

3. SECRETARY SODER CALLED PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROGRAM A DEMONSTRATION OF POWER POLITICS. HE SAID THAT SWEDEN, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WOULD CONTACT WEST GERMANY, FRANCE, AND THE UNITED STATES TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR POWER POLICY. ACCORDING TO SWEDISH PRESS REPORTS, THE VIEW OF THE SWEDISH DELEGATION IN SALZBURG APPEARS TO BE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS ADMINISTRATION ARE NOT YET QUITE CERTAIN AS TO THE STAND THEY SHOULD TAKE ON THE MATTER OF REPROCESSING. THE PRESSURES WHICH EUROPEAN NATIONS HAVE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE UNITED STATES AT SALZBURG ARE ALLEGEDLY EXTENSIVE.

4. THE PRESS SAYS THAT AT A POINT IN CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG ON MAY 3, THE U.S. DELEGATION REPORTEDLY SOUGHT TO CLARIFY THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES. QUERIED IF THE UNITED STATES WOULD FORCE SWEDEN NOT TO REPROCESS ITS NUCLEAR WASTE, U.S. CHIEF DELEGATE R.W. FRI REPORTEDLY STATED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE SWEDEN WAS WORKING ON ALTERNATIVES TO REPROCESSING AND THAT SWEDEN TOGETHER WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER NATIONS WOULD PROBABLY FIND NEW SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM. MR. FRI ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S DESIRE TO PUT A STOP TO THE REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL DOES NOT STEM FROM A GENERAL FEAR OF NUCLEAR POWER WITHIN HIS ADMINISTRATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, MR. FRI DREW ATTENTION TO THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO CONTINUE BUILDING LIGHT WATER REACTORS OF THE TYPE SWEDEN ITSELF USES. PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR ENERGY, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770158-1067
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770588/aaaacycx.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: c1d38a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STOCKHOLM 1894
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2623667
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTS CRITICISM OF U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY BY SWEDISH OFFICIALS
TAGS: PINT, TECH, SOPN, SW, US
To: IAEA VIENNA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c1d38a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009